



Quality of Life
CHALLENGE

Proud recipients of
a 2006 award from
the Quality of Life
CHALLENGE !!
(qolchallenge.ca)

Victoria Street Newz

August 2007

Sold by donation

to help end poverty & homelessness

minimum price - 50 cents

Thanks for your support!!

*“All
the
news
that
fits,
we
print”*

*May money from the sale of this
newspaper be used for peace,
and pass through healing hands.*

**Printed on 100% post-consumer recycled
newsprint with veggie ink since 2004.
Please share, and recycle.**

Vol. 4 No. 5

the truth might set you free

9/11 TRUTH MOVEMENT UPDATE

by Hal Sisson

The Vancouver 9/11 Truth Conference, held June 22nd to 24th, is over – a resounding success in nearly every way. The average attendance each day was approximately 450, so I’ll guess the attendance over the three-day session was close to 1000. Time passes like an arrow and fruit flies like a banana, and as the undeniable feeling of disbelief in the official 9/11 story keeps building, as more time passes and more and more people wake up to the corporate-funded media lies and a Bush White House cover-up, there is a huge surge in membership in the 9/11 Truth Movement, which was demonstrated by this exceedingly well run conference by the Vancouver Society of 9/11 Truth Movement organizers.

Although accused of preaching to the choir by the Vancouver Courier, this conference was where new adherents to the cause of demanding a real investigation into what happened on 9/11, could get the solid evidence that directly contradicts the Official Narrative of 9/11. Information was well investigated and researched from twenty or more experts and scholars as to how 9/11 was really carried out. The topics ranged from: ‘the proof of controlled demolition as the cause or the collapse of the Twin Towers and Building 7’ – ‘the likely perpetrators of the crime of the century in the military/industrial/banking corporate complex behind the New World Order’ – ‘the Use of Depleted Uranium Weapons that are permanently injuring and killing Armed Forces personnel, as well as locals, and destroying Afghanistan, Iraq and the world with radioactive dust’ (this included Canada’s role in producing depleted uranium low radio activity weapons).- ‘the history of False-Flag Terrorism’ – ‘the weaponization of Space’ – ‘Gatekeeping of information by the mass media’ - ‘New World Order agenda of globalization for Canada and worldwide’.

Another topic was the S.P.P (Security and Prosperity Partnership) between the USA, Canada and Mexico, creating a defacto North American Union (NAU), including a new currency to be called the ‘amero’; a plan that is being adopted without public or parliamentary debate. My thoughts in that regard as I listened to the horrendous details, was that the Harper Government has gotten Canada into bed with the United States, and that means we are definitely going to get screwed, booted and tattooed, even worse than we are now, by CAFTA, NAFTA and the approaching TILMA. Those sound like sexual diseases, and to continue that analogy, Canada is going to contract some very bad and incurable diseases that no new strain of penicillin is going to ever cure.

The New World Order (military/industrial/financial complex) is dedicated to the worldwide destruction of nationhood as we know it, creating a lack of sovereignty in the destabilized remnants of what is left – in order to create a one world government on this planet, run as a Police State, with Big

Brother surveillance of ordinary citizens in Canada and worldwide. If Canadians don’t want to be part of this big bamboozle then the public had better smarten up and start making themselves aware of what is going on and join the millions of 9/11 Truthers who are trying to properly investigate 9/11. If you cure the cause of a disease the symptoms will disappear, and we can return to the rule of law, of habeas corpus and civil liberty, and to spending our wealth on starving social programs like medical care, education, unemployment insurance, old age security and pension plans; rather than useless wars that are spilling the blood of our own sons and daughters in foreign lands, (to say nothing of that of their citizens) for U.S. control of the world’s dwindling oil supply.

The gall of the members of our Parliament is beyond belief. They sit there and argue about whether a certain hockey player should, or should not, captain our national hockey team, then fail to divulge and debate our ongoing participation in the North American Union plan to join Mexico and Canada with the United States. Like the Congress in the U.S., they don’t have any idea what their obligations are, as they blithely await the friendly face of fascism to launch them into the Fourth Reich. You can see the slide in that direction every day, mainly because they fear their machinations will be found out.

Let’s cut back to the chase, some of which the reader will already know. The people at the Vancouver 9/11 Truth Conference demonstrated that they love you enough to tell you the truth. And the truth is this: You have all watched the corpocracy that runs governments become more and more emboldened over the last six years ‘since 9/11’. You hear that phrase ‘since 9/11’ constantly repeated by every politician and parroted in the corporate-funded media, as an excuse for everything they do. Everything the United States, the lackey Congress, and subservient states such as Canada, does, is predicated with the phrase ‘since the

terror attacks of 9/11’. The implication is always also that the attacks were carried out by 19 Muslim Arabs who hate western freedoms and our way of life – and that if we do not use pre-emptive military action, to kill all these evil terrorists in the Middle East (known in Iraq as Freedom Fighters trying to rid their homeland of an illegal and immoral occupation), that they are going to invade North America and kill us all with perceived but non-existent weapons of mass destruction.

Other familiar phrases constantly repeated are “believed to be related to ‘al Queda.’” They have lately played down Osama bin Laden in favour of an attack on Iran. The truth is the U.S. Justice Department has never even charged Osama with the crime of 9/11, as they themselves and the FBI both admit they have no evidence that he did it. Further, Osama, who has the same banker as the Bush family, literally knows too much about the machinations of the CIA, whose asset he once was and maybe still is. They certainly never want to see his ass in a witness box before a world criminal court.

Another phrase you now hear constantly – particularly offered up to the public or the 9/11 Truth investigators who ask pertinent questions – is ‘National Security.’ Governments can’t reveal anything or even have it discussed openly by the public because of ‘National Security.’ If an actual enemy committed the 9/11 crime against us, and it was not ordered and carried out by a rogue element of the American government – if it was not a covert, false flag operation designed to create both fear and an enemy to replace the commies – then by what confused and lying logic can evidence be concealed or destroyed, and the public not be informed of the details. Now we are asked to fight a Forever War on the noun of Terror.

That brings us to the unenviable position in which the corporate-funded media now finds itself, something that frightens them to death. Mark Twain once said, “If you don’t read the newspaper, you’re uninformed; if you do read the newspaper, you are misinformed.” One TV news writer has recently said, “the 9/11 Truth Movement is doing nothing but grow. Those who are not aware of the evidence believe the official story. But once they start poking around they realize that the official story about the attack could not possibly be true, and they discover the plethora of evidence that was hidden and misrepresented by the Bush Administration, the 9/11 Truth Commission and the corporate media. 9/11. This evidence has spoken for itself ever since 9/11 happened, if only you want to investigate and look at it – which a great many people refuse to do – preferring instead to adopt a ‘shoot the messenger’ mode.”

can't on page two ...



About Street Newz

“Building Bridges
within our Downtown Community”

Coordinator & Website: Janine Bandcroft
Deliveries: Nancy Raycroft
Distribution: John @ Douglas/Fort St.

The Victoria Street Newz mission is to provide a voice, and income opportunities, for economically marginalized and/or socially disadvantaged people, at the same time offering employable skills training, increased self-esteem, confidence, and pride in accomplishments.

Victoria Street Newz is sold by licensed vendors who sign a code of conduct. They buy the newspaper for \$.50 each, and resell them by donation. We like to encourage a sliding-scale economy which offers people a choice.

You can contribute to social change by supporting the Victoria Street Newz coalition and vendors, by reading information that informs you directly about poverty issues, and by taking action for progressive, peaceful, non-violent change.

Victoria Street Newz welcomes written submissions including interviews, event reviews, cartoons, poetry, photographs, or artwork, but we can’t guarantee everything will be published. We reserve the right to edit, and will not print anything libelous, racist, sexist, or homophobic. Letters sent to the editor are assumed to be for publication, must include phone number or email (if possible, for confirmation) and may be edited for length. You can publish using a pseudonym, or anonymously.

Opinions expressed in this newspaper are not necessarily those of Victoria Street Newz, the editors, advertisers, contributors, readers, or publishers.

Victoria Street Newz is printed on 100% post consumer recycled paper with vegetable ink, at Horizon Publications - www.horizonpublications.ca, 604-254-8840.

Submissions (due by the 1st Friday for the next month’s issue), letters, or donations can be delivered to our mailbox at:

1027 Pandora Ave
Coast Salish Territory
Victoria, B.C.
V8V 3P6

or leave a message at
250-383-5144
ext 0137

streetnewz@islandnet.com

relativenewz.ca

Contents

- 9/11 Truth Update, Hal S., pgs 1-3
- Janine’s Jibe, pg 2
- Biodiesel Baron, Kenji Fusé, pg 3, 5
- Caravan to Cuba, Andrew B., pg 4
- Why War?, Gerry Masuda, pg 4
- Remembering Colleen, pg 4
- Don’t Pay Fees, John Young, pg 5
- One’s Last Stand, Helen M., pg 6
- Red Again!!, pg 6
- Uranium, Hiscocks & Wight, pg 6
- DAJ & Public Space, pg 6
- Laurel House, Vicki Munch, pg 7
- Homes 4 Homeless, Ian C., pg 7
- Whatcha Doin’?, Sue Stroud, pg 7
- Street Thoughts, Barbara Hay, pg 7
- Chattels & Green, Brian M., pg 8
- Women of Alouette, Betty K., pg 8
- Dear Couz, Jennifer Hastie, pg 9
- Bear Mtn Towers, Ben Isitt, pg 9
- Ask a Herbalist, James C., pg 9
- Street Muzings, pg 10
- Some SNZ Supporters, pg 11



gathering to learn about and from the earth, to celebrate her, to share food and build community. They gather all over this beautiful planet, usually in wilderness areas, deciding their next move by consensus which, they tell me, can occupy days and nights. Everyone is welcome. Everyone is part of the Rainbow family. If you bring problems, challenges, they’ll try to help you work them out.

As the clearcuts draw ever nearer to the precious Walbran Castle Giant cedars, and turn the Emerald Pool a murky brown, I invite you to consider the significance of this peaceful, earth friendly family of beings. If you can somehow support them with food (chocolate, please!), or rides, their presence might keep the indescribably beautiful Walbran Valley standing. And maybe we can convince the striking loggers to demand more labour intensive and earth friendly forestry practices - something more honourable than clearcuts.

9/11 TRUTH MOVEMENT UPDATE – CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

Although the Vancouver Courier did attend the 9/11 conference, the Vancouver Sun and Province, CKNW, CBC and CTV did not, and one has to ask why not? The corporate-funded media, having ‘protected the people’ from the truth for so long, now face the fact that the public is finding out that 9/11 was an inside job. They have failed to reveal evidence that would have determined what happened on 9/11, they have withheld evidence from the public – they have intentionally misled you to draw false conclusions relating to the case of 9/11, the defining moment in modern history. They made sure we didn’t have the right intelligence information, they continually pre-convicted the wrong people, and they will not do their job as alleged professional journalists.

As any lawyer will tell you this means the corporate media is guilty of aiding and abetting the 9/11 crime; and if not tagged as Public Enemy #1, then in the top three. We don’t need journalists with incestuous connections to nefarious secret organizations such as the Council of Foreign Relations and the Bilderberg Group. We need journalists to keep an eye on the government and show us every last piece of evidence they uncover about those organizations and their misdeeds.

There is a serious consolidation of the media, who also hire intelligence agents as reporters and gatekeepers. Six major companies control the corporate-funded media, and most (over 90%) of what you read, see or hear in the North America. Here’s the list: Disney, AOL/Time Warner, Viacom, General Electric Bertelsmann (German), and Rupert Murdoch’s News Corporation. The latter particularly is not to be trifled with, as the world’s largest English-language media content provider. This control is tainted by owners, advertisers, politicians and business lobbyists. Hence the media blackout on any alternative theories about what might have happened on 9/11 and the political will to re-open 9/11, despite the hundreds of unanswered questions. After all it wouldn’t be good business if the War on Terror came to a grinding halt, would it? You could say the same about the War on Drugs.

9/11 Truthers are branded by some people as ‘conspiracy nuts’ or worse. People say ‘get over it, what is your problem’, or ‘we’ve been told how it happened.’ ‘There’s nothing you can do about it anyway.’ ‘Why would they lie to us?’ ‘Governments would never do a thing like that to their own citizens.’ I asked a University of Victoria mathematics professor this morning, June 29, about 9/11 – he said ‘There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that the Arabs did it. It’s the kind of thing those middle eastern people do. There is no way anybody else did it, and certainly not to their own people. Further I don’t believe in conspiracy theories.’ He refused to take a look at any proffered evidence in the form of literature or dvds as to the over 100 unanswered questions and anomalies of the crime.

Considering those kinds of mind-sets makes me want to laugh and cry at the same time. The media is the message as Marshall McLuhan said. One hasn’t got time to go into the details of the innumerable times that governments, in the United States, or anywhere, have lied to the detriment of their peasants. You can do that in a few words however – the Mexican War, Remember the Maine, the Reichstag Fire, the Gulf of Tonkin Incident that started the Vietnam War, the Northwoods Operation, the S.S. Liberty – to which you can add the 9/11 attacks on the Twin Towers of the Trade Centre, Building Seven and the Pentagon.

When people have a certain mind-set on a subject, and that mind-set comes up against evidence that clearly points in another direction that disproves that mind-set – what happens? They have to make a choice – and psychologists say that more than a majority of homo sapiens will likely stick to their preconceived belief. Because, even though they have no knowledge of the subject matter they don’t want to admit to any possible error on their part – even if they know their belief was not based on any research of their own, or even any real knowledge of the subject matter.

They become emotionally attached to whatever story or prejudice that has been implanted in their brain. Whatever their

Janine’s Jibe

In 1972, I learned this past weekend, a small group of people calling themselves the ‘Rainbow Family,’ met with the intention of keeping the spirit of Woodstock alive.

The spirit is thriving, internationally, and I recently met some of the family in the unprotected Walbran Valley.

They welcomed me, and all of the soggy Western Canada Wilderness Committee hikers, to share their food, & warm ourselves at their fire. I observed the co-operative and voluntary (and fun) dinner making process (chapatis, lentils, powdered mashed potatoes & veggies), listened to their songs, and learned they’re nomads, gypsies,



mind makes up on the spur of the moment – that’s it. When asked a certain question – to which they do not know the answer – they will stick to their previous mind set, or make up their minds on the spot – which view then forever becomes the truth in their minds – and all other answers emanate from ‘conspiracy wonks.’ This is particularly true of the people who believe the cockamamie official conspiracy theory of the 19 Arabs with box-cutters, run by a master-mind in an Afghanistan cave, capable of outsmarting the entire army, navy, airforce and intelligence agencies of the USA government, etcetera, and that the laws of physics have been suspended for a day, and the jet fuel fires supposedly melted steel, bringing down all the trade center buildings, including the 47 story building 7 at 5.20 p.m. A building that did not get hit by a plane, had one or two small office fires, but contained the offices of Rudy Guiliani’s Emergency Center, offices of the Security and Exchange Commission, the CIA, the FBI and DoD

It would take only fifty outside explosive experts to wire the buildings for controlled demolition, and about the same number of inside rogue government operatives to carry out the whole heinous plan. Guess what? In the days and weeks prior to September 11th, there was a floor by floor evacuation of the towers, all power to same cut off, engineers and workmen came and went at will with no security supervision.

It has been said that everyone is entitled to his or her own OPINION – and I agree – BUT – no one is entitled to his or her own FACTS. Today we hear misstatements of scientific proven fact all the time. Some of these are deliberate lies and some of them are mistakes. But it is impossible to have a legitimate debate about anything if the participants lie, or don’t know the basic facts of the issue, will not either look at or consider the evidence, or deliberately distort their opponent’s position. Honesty on everyone’s part is required for truth to function.

Keeping that in mind, how absurd must the stated claims and the conspiracy theory of the U.S. Administration become, before our ability to blindly accept these explanations gets taxed beyond the limits of credulity. The average U.S. citizen, and to a lesser degree Canadians, rely on an erroneous belief system, ingrained by the perpetrators, who tell them how 9/11 happened. But, as Sherlock Holmes would say, ‘one always has to look for the dog that doesn’t bark.’

9/11 Truthers ask the WHY and the HOW, never claiming superior intelligence as proof of the validity of their claims, trying instead to understand the crucial details and anomalies of 9/11. And we demand proof of the official administration conspiracy theory – none of which has ever been, and is still not, forthcoming from the Government, from the Military, or from the U.S. so-called Intelligence Agencies.

Education is our big tool. Those perpetrators have left us all this evidence and we can nail them on it; thus making it really hard for the New World Order to continue to conduct false flag covert actions resulting in war, making the world a much safer place for our descendants. That is what the Truth Movement is all about. For nations that claim to be subject to the rule of law, establishing the true identities of the perpetrators of any crime should matter, by definition.

In conclusion, see the 9/11 Truth Quiz on page 3 - WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT WHAT REALLY HAPPENED ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001. Tote up your score and see where you stand in relation thereto. Inquiries can be directed to www.v911truth.org, the Vancouver 9/11 Truth Society.

Hal Sisson is a retired lawyer who has scribed many books including his latest - ‘Modus Operandi 9/11’ in which humorous characters and situations reflect some of the lamentable factual evidence uncovered by the 9/11 truth movement. It’s available at Munroe’s and Bolen’s in Victoria, and at Tanner’s in Sidney. Hal’s website is www.halsisson.ca



How to Become an Oil Baron
Island Biodiesel Co-op Update

Biodiesel is a safe, renewable, cleaner-burning alternative to petroleum diesel fuel and heating oil that lowers emissions and reduces greenhouse gases by over 78%. It is 3 times more biodegradable than sugar and 10 times less toxic than table salt

By Kenji Fusé

Since I wrote an article called “How and Why I Make Biodiesel: or How to Boycott the Oil Industry” for the Street Newz last summer (which included a recipe for making biodiesel yourself), a bunch of biodiesel home brewers have got together and incorporated a biodiesel cooperative association right here in Victoria, BC.

Three Methods of Incorporation


In case you don’t spend your free time poring over the Corporate Act, there are three ways to incorporate a company in Canada. You can become [1] a corporation, [2] a non-profit society and [3] a cooperative association.

The corporation has become the most common type, becoming virtually synonymous with the business of greed-motivated growth and reckless ambition. The appeal of a corporation is that: (a) you have liability protection (if your business goes bankrupt, the bank can’t touch your personal property, such as your home); and (b) you can own an unlimited amount of shares in your company, and therefore maintain tyrannical control.

If your corporation is successful, you can trade it publicly and attract even more money through investors (but it costs an exorbitant sum to enter your company into the big boys club known as the stock market). If your company is wildly successful on the market, and you own the majority of shares, you are now a bona fide bigwig, up there with His Holiness Billy Gates and His Lordship Dicky Cheney. Corporations are usually started by hard-nosed business types who don’t normally have a lot of concern for things like poor people, the environment or community welfare. The downside of a corporation is that if successful, it leaves a slurried mess in the communities into which it spreads, as it must grow to survive, and, if it reaches its ‘breaking point’, (that point at which growth is no longer possible), the investors pull out in a panic and it implodes on itself, the economic equivalent of a black hole or supernova. Or it is absorbed by another mega-corporation not yet at its breaking point, through a hostile takeover or merger.

The appeal of incorporating a non-profit society is: (a) again, limited liability (for the board of directors); (b) the potential to receive a charitable number from the federal government so you can issue tax receipts for donations - a major incentive (although this is getting virtually impossible to obtain these days, and limits freedoms); and (c) access to certain grants and revenues allocated solely to non-profits (health care, education, sports and arts institutions are prime examples of the kind that usually opt for this type of incorporation). Non-profits are usually started by well-meaning people who have a specific public welfare project in mind (such as opening a hospital or supporting your local symphony orchestra), but they are difficult to maintain as the board must be voluntary. They are often plagued by perpetual financial crises as the board is often not financially astute and they usually rely on significant amounts of government or other grant funding which may disappear at any moment.


The third, and rarest, type of incorporation is the cooperative association. Cooperatives are usually started by a group of people who are already involved with a community project (farming, affordable housing, or a credit union, for example), and want to take the venture to the next level - incorporation. Here, the appeal of the cooperative association is: (a) limited liability, yet again (seems to be a pattern here!); (b) an egalitarian structure where one person’s membership share equals one vote (thus prohibiting the power-hogging tendency of the traditional corporation); and (c) access to grants and funding specifically allocated to co-ops. The negative side of the cooperative association is also its strength - one member



Photocopy the quiz, take it to rallies, marches, meetings. Test your friends and get them involved!

9/11 Truth QUIZ –

What You Need to Know About What Really Happened on September 11, 2001



THE 9/11 COMMISSION REPORT
Omissions and Distortions
by DAVID RAY GIBSON
author of The New Pearl Harbor

1.	Did you know that a third World Trade Center high-rise building also fell on September 11th? WTC Building 7 was a 47-storey, steel-framed skyscraper located a full block away from the Twin Towers and it was not even hit by any plane. Nonetheless, it fell at near free-fall speed straight down into its own footprint at 5:20 p.m. that afternoon.	YES	NO
2.	Did you know that the owner of Building 7 Larry Silverstein, said “We’ve had such a terrible loss of life that maybe the smartest thing to do is pull it [Building 7] and they made that decision – to pull – and then we watched the building collapse” and yet <i>The 9/11 Commission Report</i> never mentioned a thing about Building 7? [N.B. ‘Pull’ is an industry term for using controlled demolition]	YES	NO
3.	Did you know that ‘Lucky’ Larry Silverstein was awarded 4.68 billion dollars in insurance claims for the Twin Towers which he had just leased six weeks before 9/11 from the Port Authority of New York who declined to spend the multi million dollars required to remove the asbestos and bring the Towers up to code required by law?	YES	NO
4.	Did you know that fire has never caused any steel-frame building to collapse in the history of architecture, except on 9/11 when three skyscrapers fell at near free-fall speeds despite the fact that there were 47 massive steel columns in the core of each of the Twin Towers?	YES	NO
5.	Did you know that most of the WTC steel was quickly shipped overseas – before any independent investigation – and melted down? (This is unprecedented and contrary to federal crime scene laws.)	YES	NO
6.	Did you know that fighter jets routinely are scrambled the minute any airplane loses contact with the FAA or deviates from its flight path and this, on average, takes 20 minutes?	YES	NO
7.	Did you know that in the nine months preceding 9/11 there were 67 jet fighter scrambles of wayward airplanes and that on average 100 intercepts occur each year?	YES	NO
8.	Did you know that the Secret Service broke established protocols by allowing President Bush to remain in a well-publicized classroom photo op for at least 8 minutes after it was revealed to him that “America was under attack” when Andy Card informed him that the second plane had hit the second tower?	YES	NO
9.	Did you know that the SEC (Securities Exchange Commission) has never revealed the unidentified traders who made millions of dollars in profits by short-selling the stocks of American and United airlines that were impacted by the attacks?	YES	NO
10.	Did you know that there were countless warnings of “impending terrorist attacks” from at least 11 countries prior to 9/11 and that the threat level for such an attack was ‘blinking red’ according to George Tenet, Director of the CIA?	YES	NO
11.	Did you know that Attorney General John Ashcroft, San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown, author Salmon Rushdie and (according to <i>Newsweek</i>) a group of high-ranking generals at the Pentagon were warned not to fly on 9/11 but would not reveal who told them?	YES	NO
12.	Did you know that in September of 2000 a group known as The Project for A New American Century (PNAC), many of whom would become key officials in the Bush administration, wrote that their proposed massive military buildup would proceed slowly “absent some catastrophic and catalyzing event – like a new Pearl Harbor”?	YES	NO
13.	Did you know that at least 6 of the alleged 9/11 hijackers were reported to be still alive according to BBC and UK print media reports in the weeks following 9/11?	YES	NO
14.	Did you know that the FBI has said that there is no evidence to link Osama bin Laden to 9/11 and that Osama is not wanted for the crime of 9/11 on the FBI’s <i>Ten Most Wanted Fugitives</i> list?	YES	NO

Global Outlook™

info@GlobalOutlook.ca

Issue 12 – Summer 2007

7

equals one vote means there are as many cooks brewing biodiesel in the kitchen as there are members. A good thing for democracy, but don’t ever make the mistake of thinking a meeting will end on time!

I Wanna Be an Oil Baron!

I first got the idea to start a biodiesel co-op last year, after reading an essential, candid and hilarious book called “Biodiesel Power”, by Lyle Estill (published by New Society on nearby Gabriola Island). I particularly enjoyed Estill’s apt description of his North Carolina biodiesel co-op, Piedmont Biofuels, as a “garage band”, which resonated strongly within me (I learnt of biodiesel from my former band mates, the legendary Brothers Hewett, of Huge fame and renown - their band Huge was the first surf/punk band to play a concert on an iceberg!).

At any rate, at the time I read “Biodiesel Power” I had been making ‘homebrew’ for a couple of years in a friend’s backyard, and since I was getting good at making it, I thought “wouldn’t it be nice to sell some of my excess fuel to others, thus helping reduce greenhouse gases even more, boycotting even more petroleum product, and putting some money in my pocket to boot!”

Wrong!

The sale of road transportation fuel is one of the most heavily regulated in Canada. In order to sell biodiesel to the public, the fuel must be certified, through a comprehensive test called ASTM D6751. This test is quite stringent (a good thing), but prohibitively expensive (a very BAD thing!) at over \$1000 a pop. Since every single batch of fuel sold must be tested, you can see that this system favours the giant producers, such as BP or Archers-Midland, who can make a million litre batch of fuel at the drop of a hat. To them, a thousand dollar test is a drop in the bucket.

But to backyard home brewers like me, who make 200 litre batches or less, you can see that this test is simply

impractical, if not downright impossible.

Estill had the answer, which he reveals in “Biodiesel Power”: since the members of a cooperative association are an incorporated, private body as defined by the federal government, the sale of biodiesel within the co-op membership does not constitute a ‘public’ sale. Thus, the ASTM test is not mandatory.

On the Road to Starting a Biodiesel Co-op

So I was set. I would join with like-minded folk and start up a biodiesel co-op. I started emailing around, and got some free press from CH TV (thanks to my friend Jenny Matechuk!), CFUV radio (thanks to my friends Chris C. and Janine B.!), and in the Times-Colonist, Monday Magazine, the Newsgroup, and right here in Street Newz.

Soon enough, several people got in touch with me, eager to help get the co-op off the ground. One person was Karel Roessingh, a successful musician who I had worked with in the past, and the former mayor of the Highlands. (footnote: this turned out to be an invaluable asset when the time came to file the incorporation documents, as Karel easily drew up the overwhelming paperwork required. My most notable contribution was figuring out the ‘trick question’ that sneakily asks whether, if either, paragraph A or B applied to us. Karel saw that paragraph A was about ‘housing co-ops’, so quickly checked off ‘B’. It turns out B didn’t apply to us either, so we were supposed to simply write “neither”. To make a long, boring story even longer and more tedious, the Ministry didn’t penalize us financially, as they could have asked us to pay the incorporation fee again, but simply asked us to return the corrected form.

But I’m getting ahead of myself. We arranged a public meeting, along with a friend of Karel’s named Don Goodeve, at the Bruce Hutchison library, not knowing who, if anyone, would show up.

con’t on page 5

Pastors for Peace Caravan to Cuba

by Andrew Barry; photo: Andrew Barry, Ruth Miranda, and her daughter Tahisa

The immoral US blockade on Cuba was confronted in a big way on June 30th, as 150 people from Washington State and BC travelled to the Peace Arch Park at the US/Canada border to support the send off for the 18th annual Pastors for Peace Caravan to Cuba! For the last 18 years caravanistas from the US and Canada have taken medical aid, sports equipment, computers and many other items to Cuba, which is illegal under the immoral and inhuman US laws. In Vancouver over 60 people met in the morning of June 30th to board a yellow school bus that would drive to the border to meet up with other social justice activists to protest the US blockade on Cuba. As the bus arrived at the Peace Arch Park, dozens of other cars and vehicles were pouring into the park (from both sides of the border!) to begin what was ultimately a very successful send off event for the Caravan.

This exciting and energizing day was introduced by the harmonic music performed by Solidarity Notes Labour Choir. Randy Caravaggio, who works with Victoria Goods for Cuba and works as the co-ordinator of the Caravan in Canada, was the MC for the day and helped lead a big welcome for the Raging Grannies who sang from their hearts against injustice and US aggression towards Cuba. There were Raging Grannies from Victoria, Vancouver, Seattle, and Bellingham!

After the Grannies revved up the crowd, Randy introduced Nancy Abbey of the Santa Cruz Cuba Study Group who is on a speaking tour in BC talking about the Caravan and how it challenges the blockade on Cuba. The next two speakers were Tamara Hansen, the co-ordinator of Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba, and Reverend Al Dale who is a main organiser with Bellingham Friends of Cuba.

Anne Feeney, a long time social justice musician originally from Pittsburgh, was the next up to the microphone, and she sang inspiring songs for the big crowd at the Peace Arch. Popular Victoria musician Art Farquharson was the next up, and he brought the message of internationalism through music.

Rick “The Bus Driver” who is a long time Cuba supporter and has been a bus driver for the Caravan for many years now was the next to speak about the US blockade on Cuba. Noah Fine, the co-ordinator of the Free the Cuban 5 Committee-Vancouver was the next and spoke about the struggle for freedom for the 5 Cuban Heroes. After Noah, two main organizers with the Friendship Caravan to Cuba Committee-Saltspring Island group, Tanya Lester and George Taylor spoke. The next three speakers were Nino Pagliccia, an organizer with the Canadian Cuba Friendship Association-Vancouver, Tom Warner with the Seattle Cuba Friendship Committee, and Charles Boylan from the Wake Up With Co-Op radio show. Sophie Ziner, an organizer with Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba and the route co-ordinator for this year’s caravan, spoke about her past experiences on the Caravan and what she’s looking forward to this year. The last part of this portion of the day was introducing this years’ caravanistas which allowed for them to say a few words. Nine people in total were leaving from BC this year to join the Caravan!

After this, five cars full of humanitarian aid and everyone attending the event joined the line up at the border to enter the US, preparing to openly defy the US blockade on Cuba. The crowd of protesters held signs, denounced the blockade, and talked to many different people crossing the border that day. The aid went through the border without a hitch, and immediately the aid from the cars was loaded onto the bus in Washington State. The caravanistas got all of their bags together, loaded onto the bus themselves, and people said their goodbyes as the 18th Caravan to Cuba began its mighty tour across the United States to challenge this immoral US blockade on Cuba!

Addendum from Randy Carravagio, Caravan Organizer:

On Saturday, June 30, our friends from Quebec of the Caravane D’amitié Québec-Cuba committee set out with 21 people and a few vehicles loaded with humanitarian aid to cross the border from Canada into the US to initiate this year’s caravan. Other vehicles with aid and caravanistas were waiting to join them once they crossed into the US. When the delegation reached the Maine/Quebec border, they were told by the border official in charge that they would not be allowed to enter the US with aid destined for Cuba. There was stand off for a number of hours and the aid was detained at the border. The items were: a breast pump for nursing mothers, stethoscopes, used eyeglasses, a Physicians Desk Reference (PDR) and surgical gowns destined for maternity clinics and nursing homes in Cuba.

At this point we can all start calling Greg Pease, (207- 297-2554) the Homeland Security officer at Maine, Coburn Gore Station and the Treasury Office of Foreign Asset Control (202-622-2520) and the demand the release of our goods.

BLOODSHED CONTINUES IN AFGHANISTAN AND IRAQ - WHY?

from Gerry Masuda

Why is there still so much continuing killings and destruction in Afghanistan and Iraq?

The War Of Terror inflicted on Afghanistan was to capture Bin Laden who was responsible for the Twin Tower and Pentagon terrorist attacks. In the case of the War of Shock and Awe inflicted on Iraq, it was to find and destroy the Weapons of Mass Destruction.

Bin Laden has not been found in Afghanistan and we now know that WMD never existed in Iraq. Why are these Wars continuing? I’m not sure why we have Canadian troops in Afghanistan but I understand that the US is now determined to impose freedom and democracy on Iraqis - even if they have to kill them all to do so.

It doesn’t make sense to me. Why are we sacrificing our soldiers, killing and maiming innocent civilians, raining destruction on these two countries at great financial cost when the peoples of these two countries just want these ‘foreign invaders’ to leave.

Think of the life supporting ways the funds now used to kill, maim, and destroy could have been used. Think of how the billions of dollars we are spending in the War on Afganistan could be used in Canada to provide adequate food and shelter, health care, education, day care, renewal of our water, sewage, roads and bridges, ...

It doesn’t make sense to me. Does it make sense to you?

Quality of Life CHALLENGE Announces More than 1000 people moved along the Pathway out of Poverty

Victoria, BC: “At least 1000 people have moved along the pathway out of poverty as a result of deep and durable changes such as increased wages, better workplace supports, new housing by-laws and funds”, says Sue Stovel, Chair of Phase One of the Quality of Life CHALLENGE.

Some exciting accomplishments since 2003 around creating more sustainable incomes include:

- 559 local employers using the information from the CHALLENGE to inform their human resource decisions.
- 895 low-wage workers enjoying improved employee supports
- 795 workers now earning \$1 to \$2.50 more per hour
- \$1,000,000 of new earnings have been brought into the local economy

An increase in wages makes a significant impact in employees, lives. “That small amount of increase has allowed me to move into much better housing and even have some money left at the end of the month to treat myself to a video and pizza night, or to buy something special at the grocery store. It is the first time in many years that I’ve been able to have this small luxury.”

Quality of Life CHALLENGE communications increased public awareness about housing affordability. The resulting shift in attitudes, strengthened by the collaborative efforts of the Housing Affordability Partnership and the CRD, influenced the decisions of local governments to:

- create the Regional Housing Trust Fund. Since 2005, 9 of 13 local governments have contributed \$1,397,515. Some of this money has leveraged 14 times more from other sources.
- approve the Regional Housing Affordability Strategy
- approve secondary-suite by-laws and other innovative housing affordability measures.

2,255 individuals were engaged in the CHALLENGE in its first Phase, including at least 201 community groups, 153 private sector organizations, 47 public sector organizations, and 879 individuals. \$1.8 million dollars in cash and in kind was invested in the CHALLENGE since 2003: 43% from the private sector, 31% from community organizations, 25% from governments, and 1% from individuals.

The leaders in this collaboration include engaged citizens and organizations - Coast Capital Savings, Service Canada, Vibrant Communities, Community Council, Shaw TV, Times Colonist, Ocean FM and Jack, United Way of Greater Victoria, and many others.

“People are looking at what is happening in the Capital Region,” says Sherri Torjman of the Caledon Institute of Social Policy in Ottawa. “The Quality of Life CHALLENGE is a leader amongst the 15 Vibrant Communities across Canada. The Quality of Life CHALLENGE has learned about the power of including people who have first-hand experience living on low income and about communicating stories respectfully, and from the outset has been committed to change that is deep and long-lasting.”

Further information:

Electronic version: A Bold New Way - Report of Phase One 2003-2006 www.qolchallenge.ca/pdf/QoLC_Phase_1_%20complete_book.pdf

Christina Peacock, Communications Manager, Community Council
1144 Fort Street, Victoria, BC V8V 3K8
Tel: 250-383-6166 email: christina@communitycouncil.ca
www.communitycouncil.ca, www.qolchallenge.ca

Colleen in '05 at the 25 Year Celebration of the birth of the German Green Party in Berlin. She went there to meet Jürgen Trittin, then Foreign Minister, to lobby him on behalf of the forests and wildlife of Canada. She

was a role model for me and many others here in Germany and we shall miss her greatly.

Karen Wonders, Göttingen University

Remembering Colleen



Colleen McRory passed away on Canada Day of this year. You can learn more about her and her vast environmental legacy, including the creation of the Valhalla Wilderness, at www.vws.org

PUBLIC SCHOOL FEES: DON'T PAY THEM!

by John Young

The B.C. Supreme Court ruled last fall that school boards must provide standard school courses and required materials for free. There were to be no exceptions. Yet this spring the B.C. government twisted even more loopholes into our education law. So now school boards all over B.C. are scrambling to set up “specialty academies” and extra equipment fees-another end run around the spirit of the law.

The B.C. School Act and Education Ministry regulations say that every standard course for public school students, with all needed resource materials, must be provided free. The Act and regulations have allowed practically no exceptions.

But now our government and school boards want us to have even more two-tier education. I’m not just talking about those specialty hockey academies and fancy extracurricular field trips. Now all students who take a trades, music or fine arts course will have to pay for their tools, instruments and materials. They’ll pay for the eggs in their cooking course, the wrenches and hammers in their apprenticeship program, the wood for woodwork course, cloth for textile class, chemicals for chemistry, metal for metalwork, paint and brushes for art. So now even more courses are available only to the rich. Some annual fees cost a hill of dollars. PhysEd 11 in Saanich, for example, costs \$150. Some “academy” courses cost over \$1,000.

This new fee structure is grossly unfair to B.C.’s poor, disadvantaged and “underclass” kids. School fees victimize children on low incomes, often forcing students to pick courses they can afford, rather than programs that meet their educational needs. No matter: parents still have the legal right to send their kids to school without paying for courses and needed materials that lead to graduation, including so-called “electives” which are also required for graduation.

Public schools cannot refuse any student the full educational program that is suited to the student’s needs and abilities. And the school cannot deny any student a full educational program simply because they have not paid fees or deposits. If the child does not have the necessary resource materials, the school must provide whatever the child needs to participate fully in the school’s educational program, at all grade levels-free of charge.

No circumstances or situations give school authorities the power to deny any child a program suited to their needs and abilities simply because a fee or course material hasn’t been paid for. The Education Ministry must continue to hold school boards accountable, making sure they meet their legal responsibilities. Otherwise our B.C. law, which is supposed to provide for free public education, would be without substance.

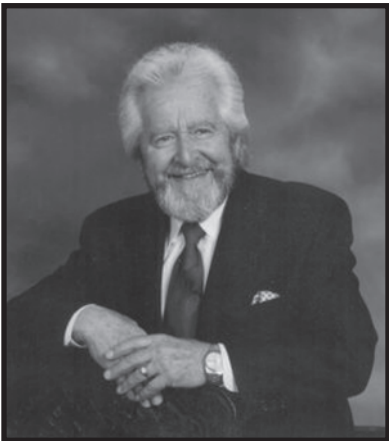
Education minister Shirley Bond recently scolded B.C. schools for charging fees for summer courses. She ordered them to refund the fees and offered to cover the cost, estimated up to \$10 million. Well, what would be the cost of eliminating fees altogether? Why not provide truly equitable public education? Parents and students throughout B.C. would welcome that; it would be a smart political move and would build the future for a healthy, vibrant economy and society. I estimate the total cost at \$50 million a year, roughly a 1.25% increase to the education budget. Remember: B.C. has a \$4.1 billion surplus this year alone.

Beyond its affordability, consider the legal consequences of this law which governs compulsory education for all B.C.’s school-age children. This September, parents have the legal right to send their children to public school without paying any course fee or materials charge. Legally, schools cannot discriminate against any student for any reason. All students must be treated equally according to not just the B.C. School Act, but also our Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

I am preparing a Canadian Supreme Court challenge, to have the court declare that any and all education charges are discriminatory under the Charter. The court’s decision will apply to every public school in Canada. Public school education should be free and equally accessible for school kids right across our country.

Do you have a story about school fees to share or want more information? Please call me at (250) 385-0434, email info@schoolfees.ca or visit www.schoolfees.ca.

Prof. John Young has been an active school board trustee with the Victoria School District for 14 years. He has been the principal of several elementary, secondary and private schools in Canada, a college president, a university professor in China, and the deputy minister of education for Borneo. In 1997, Professor Young took his own Victoria School District to court over illegal school fees. He won, effectively ending the practice in Victoria. However, nearly all other B.C. school districts continue to demand illegal school fees. “School fees create a two-tier public education system-one for the rich and one for the poor,” says John Young. “I grew up in a poor Métis family and was discriminated against. I will do everything in my power to prevent such harm to disadvantaged children and families.” John Young is president of the B.C. Advocacy Institute.



How to Become an Oil Baron --- continued from page 3

Sure enough, about twenty people came to the meeting, all just as eager to start a co-op as the three of us. So we gathered names and numbers, and Karel set to work on the incorporation documents.

I decided to put on a concert to raise the \$250 incorporation fee. This was a success, I guess, since the money was raised, but I had hoped for a more densely packed Alix Goolden Hall than the one we got (what an ungrateful sense of entitlement I possess!) to witness Karel and I hash out some jazz originals.

The Birth of the Island Biodiesel Co-op

The paperwork was filed, mistakes were made, paperwork was refiled, and finally, in late November, 2006, the Island Biodiesel Co-op was officially incorporated. Despite the labour pains, we had given birth to our little co-op.

We had another meeting for people to join up, and we opened up an account at Vancity (we chose them because they are a co-op, like us, although financial co-ops are called ‘credit unions’ for some odd reason, and the fact that they offer several grants for renewable energy endeavors like ours). We just barely got our first Annual General Meeting done in time (three months after incorporation is the deadline), with less than two dozen members.

How We Operate

Despite our modest beginnings, I believe we are successful and have the potential to continue growing into a quite meaningful business venture. Our model so far is this: homebrewers who make excess biodiesel can give it to the co-op, and a revolving waiting list of non-producing members have access to this fuel for a service fee of \$1.00 a litre, of which 15 cents of this fee (15%) goes to the co-op, and the rest goes to the specific producer who made the fuel. Also, we engage in vigorous and healthy discussions on every aspect of biodiesel, from production techniques, quality and testing issues, bulk equipment purchases, and we even awful, tell geeky, nerdy, renewable energy jokes (i.e., “How many biodiesel brewers does it take to screw in a light bulb?” Answer: “None. They don’t use light bulbs, they use biodiesel-burning lamps”).

Membership may seem stiff at \$100, but this is refundable if you withdraw from the co-op, plus all members will receive some sort of profit sharing (we’re still deciding what to do with the little money we have in our account - some members want to spend it all on a biodiesel processor, while others want to keep it in the bank, while others want to share the profits on a semi-regular basis). Karel and Don are getting more ambitious, developing their own processor in conjunction with an island farmer.

Most recently, Victoria NDP MP Denise Savoie asked the Island Biodiesel Co-op to provide her with a biodiesel-powered vehicle for use in a public parade. I continue to get requests to appear on radio and television, but I’m getting a tad tired of being the ‘mad scientist’ poster child for biodiesel in Victoria.

Meanwhile, the slowly growing and revolving list of

members waiting for biodiesel continues to change over, as our production steadily increases. The last figure was that the co-op had made just over \$100 from it’s 15% of biodiesel turnover, which translates into almost 750 litres of biodiesel produced by the co-op. Not bad for the first half year of business, I guess.

The real challenge will be to keep going. Our co-op crew is all heart; Terry H., our biggest producer-member on Galiano Island, keeps brewing even after an accident with the notoriously dangerous methoxide catalyst injured his leg (Terry has lent me an expensive chemical tank which I use to wash my biodiesel in); Ken K. keeps meticulous records of each batch he brews, and is equally generous. Don G. is our articulate expert on all aspects of renewable energy, and is an electrical engineer to boot; Karel R. can handle all and any bureaucratic hurdle with élan; Alberto is a potential liaison to an incredible source of used cooking oil from the deep fryers of restaurants; Rod G. maintains are still-to-be-perfected website (soon to be www.islandbiodiesel.ca); Rob H. for his uncanny ability to scavenge just the right part needed; and Kevin M., Corey B., Don C., Terry P., Bill M. and the rest who keep the co-op invigorated with their insights and ideas.

Driving Into the Future (on Biodiesel, of course!)

If Piedmont Biofuels is a garage band, I guess we are relegated to the role of cover band, emulating, as we are, Piedmont’s strategies and successes. Piedmont’s Lyle Estill was recently featured in “The Citizen-Powered Energy Handbook” (Greg Pahl, 2007, Chelsea Green Publishing Co.):

“By virtually anybody’s standards, Piedmont Biofuels has been a remarkable success. Trying to replicate that success, however, is not as easy as one might assume. The national landscape is littered with ‘the remnants of biodiesel co-ops,’ according to Estill. ‘The main thing that we have done that many others have failed to do is survive’, he says. ‘No one got mad and took their reactor and went home [we] have stuck together, and that’s one of our greatest strengths. We’re the garage band, and we haven’t broken up yet.”

Island Biodiesel Co-op may only be a cover band, churning out biodiesel to the tune of Piedmont’s model, but we’re a good cover band with our own identity, and we haven’t broken up yet, either. The long and winding road we are on may be slippery and difficult, but our little caravan of grease monkeys may just yet survive the upcoming crisis of peak petroleum and its attendant energy shortages.

Kenji Fusé is a working musician, and starving businessman. He’s currently the lead viola with Victoria’s Symphony Orchestra, and is darned proud of the Co-op.



Go confidently in the direction of your dreams! Live the life you’ve imagined. As you simplify your life, the laws of the universe will be simpler.

Henry David Thoreau

Public School Teacher Arrested

A public school teacher was arrested today at John F. Kennedy International Airport as he attempted to board a flight while in possession of a ruler, a protractor, a set square, a slide rule and a calculator.

At a morning press conference, Attorney General Alberto Gonzales said he believes the man is a member of the notorious Al-gebra movement. He did not identify the man, who has been charged by the FBI with carrying weapons of math instruction.

“Al-gebra is a problem for us,” Gonzales said. “They desire solutions by means and extremes, and sometimes go off on tangents in search of absolute values. They use secret code names like ‘x’ and ‘y’ and refer to themselves as ‘unknowns,’ but we have determined they belong to a common denominator of the axis of medieval with coordinates in every country.”

As the Greek philanderer Isosceles used to say, “There are 3 sides to every triangle.”

When asked to comment on the arrest, President Bush said, “If God had wanted us to have better weapons of math instruction, Shee would have given us more fingers and toes.”

White House aides told reporters they could not recall a more intelligent or profound statement by the president.

Author Unknown. Thanks to John and Heather for forwarding it! (It’s a joke)

One Warrior's Last Stand

This is an indigenous warriors last stand for the protection of Mother Earth. As an indigenous woman warrior of the western hemisphere I have stood along side many of these such warriors. I have known John Graham through out most of my life. As warriors for the protection of Mother Earth, our struggles began, at the same age, in our early teens.

Since we all began our own road to becoming 'Warriors for Mother Earth', many of our comrades never made it to the ripe old age, as we have, in our early '50s. As many were murdered, missing, rammed of the highway by police cruisers (many on the same stretch of highway), many were made disabled by police brutalities, and still many of the warriors were banned from going back to their own homelands as a result of false accusations of 'sexual assault charges' and many other lies, which the courts gobble up. Racism and discrimination also play a huge role in the incarceration of Canada's indigenous peoples.

The prisons of this province of British Columbia, Canada, are overflowing with indigenous people of this province. The Mountain Prison of the Fraser Valley, near Harrison Hot Springs B.C. is one such prison, which is specifically for indigenous peoples of British Columbia. Many of these indigenous people are imprisoned for 'false' charges, and many are imprisoned for extended length of time. Many more were imprisoned because they or their parents or their grandparents were 'land holders' or 'trapline holders.' Still so many of our indigenous peoples are illegally imprisoned only to make way for this 'illegal treaty process' that has stolen many of our traditional sacred lands and our traditional names to these sacred lands.

Helen Michell



Red Again !!

Dear Readers -- Those who read my writings know I write from what I come across. My own observations. I have lots to say, but it's only my opinion.

This writing is about you. I must put down a lot of blessings and gratitude for the help.

I believe that you make life the way you live it. Good or bad, just be who you are. Changes come and go, so keep on the path you choose but remember no one can bring back the past, so look forward to the future. Also, remember to live minute by minute because you never know what's in store.

There are so many people that I am grateful to and I really don't know how to thank them. The police, hospital workers, doctors, ambulance, drivers, nurses, bus drivers, taxi drivers, SOLID workers, community workers, etc. Every person I've met makes me glad to know that I'm still a human being, and glad there are people who still care.

Thanks, Red.



CPP Supports Depleted Uranium Weapons Production

from Sue Hiscocks & Jim Wight

In Iraq, doctors at a hospital in Basra, where depleted uranium weapons were used frequently in the first Gulf War (and are being used again now), have noticed an alarming trend in the health and wellness of the children in the area. Charting incidents of children's illness between 1990 and 2001 shows an incidence increase of 426 per cent for general malignancies, 366 per cent for leukemias and an over 600 per cent increase in birth defects.

This is not a scorched earth policy; it is a toxic earth policy. Military forces are not only destroying life, but creating an environment that is inhospitable to life for billions of years to come.

There is action that we as individuals can take. But before I can give you that good news, I have to hit you with one large piece of bad news first: Canada, and Canadian taxpayers, are supporting the production of these weapons.

Through the investment of both the Canada Pension Plan and the BC Pension Plan, as well as provincial plans for other provinces, funds are being invested in companies that produce depleted uranium weapons and delivery systems. BC's investment company alone has almost 200 million sunk just into depleted uranium weapon producers (Lockheed Martin; Texas Instruments; Boeing; Northrup/Grumman; General Dynamics, a subsidiary of Lockheed Martin; and General Electric) and that's not counting the many other weapons and munitions producers that the public's money is invested in who are profiting off of and perpetuating this cycle of war and violence.

Now, I know I wasn't consulted on this use of my money, and none of you were either. The CPP is not an optional program; everyone contributes to this, and these contributions are going to fund corporations that destroy the environment.

We do not have to be complicit in this destruction of the environment. Make it clear that even if government bodies do not have a social or environmental conscience, we do. That we will not allow this support to continue.

Excerpt from an article of the same name appearing in (Peace, Earth & Justice) PEJ.org

Homelessness in a Growth Economy

Canada's homeless population is between 200,000 and 300,000 people, while another 1.7 million residents struggle with "housing affordability issues", according to a new report from the Calgary-based Sheldon Chumir Foundation for Ethics in Leadership. Author Gordon Laird makes a case for a national housing strategy and a more robust income security program. He cites government numbers showing a cost of up to \$6 billion a year to service a "core" homeless population of 150,000. That cost includes health care, criminal justice, social services and emergency shelter costs.

The report criticizes Canada for trying to contain the growth of homelessness with temporary measures such as shelters and other crisis-based services. It cites studies that show the cost of emergency shelters is much greater than the cost of creating affordable housing and implementing rent supplements.

Laird says the former national affordable housing strategy, discontinued in 1993, created 650,000 units providing housing for more than two million Canadians. While new investments in affordable housing were made in 2005, there is no national strategy and so no guarantee the money will be well spent.

Download the complete report (98 pages) from www.chumirethicsfoundation.ca/files/pdf/SHELTER.pdf

from KAIROS Poverty E-Update - www.kairoscanada.org

DAVID ARTHUR JOHNSTON'S PERPETUAL QUEST TO MAINTAIN PUBLIC SPACE

by David Arthur Johnston (photo: Andrew Ainsley)

It makes me pause often, finding the words to describe this absurdity they have presented. Apparently, me and my cronies and followers have been a plague in the library courtyard scaring the female employees with video cameras, shitting in the elevator and leaving needles everywhere. We've [allegedly] been peeing all over the library courtyard and the Facility Manager of the Waddington Complex at 940 Blanshard Street wants us permanently banned and the 'crown' wants me under conditions that would make it illegal to have any sign on me or to post any sign.

They occasionally mention that we were there in the capacity of protesters, protesting the existence of the 'no loitering' signs. They even have seven pictures of the sign which says 'not leaving until no loitering signs are removed', just in case some vital evidence may appear at a different angle, I guess.

Sarah and I and Andrew Ainsley were arrested Monday the 11th of June, 2007. Sarah and I were arrested for breaching the conditions of the last arrest, even though the last arrest was dropped (apparently, someone 'forgot' to enter that fact into the police's computer). They figured it out by this morning and released us. Andrew was arrested for a charge that never existed and he was released when we got to the police station last night.

This was all a big pile of crap. A tactic of intimidation and nothing more. (If you support the crown, stop right now because you will be forced to hate me for pointing out your complete world/life destroying retardation). You do not have the right to not join the revolution.

We talked to duty council and he said that there was no such thing as Assault by Trespass. Sarah and I waited all day in cells to eventually sign an undertaking to return [the next day] to make our plea (not-guilty) and then set a date for trial. We are being charged with 'fail to leave/stop activity on or in premises, contrary to section 4(3) Trespass Act' for June 12th AND for the first time we protested on April 12th.

I give odds to this being dropped after they attempt to steal as much of our energy as possible... a simple man's patience will continue to be stronger than all the spin-doctoring in the world.

The trial is set for JANUARY 2ND, 2008 at 9:30 AM in Courtroom #203. There is a trial confirmation a month before on December 4th, 2007 at 9:00 AM in courtroom #103.

For more information write to David at Hatrackman@Gmail.com or check his website: www.angelfire.com/apes/hatrackman



Tradition
is the illusion
of permanence.
Woody Allen

Victoria's Committee to End Homelessness

The Committee to End Homelessness in Victoria began as the Ad Hoc Coalition on Homelessness, with the assistance of the Communities Solidarity Coalition. The idea behind it is to give those who are homeless, or who had recent experience with homelessness, assistance in getting attention directly to their situation.

In addition to advocacy, we plan power lunches which take place at Our Place, 711 Pandora. If you have food to donate or would like to help with the lunch, call Rose at 812-0199.

Regular planning meetings are held Wednesday nights, 7 p.m. at Silver Threads - 1740 Douglas St.

If you are homeless, have been homeless, or think you could be homeless, you are encouraged to join together with the committee in our actions.

For more information write to Phil at plyons@vcn.bc.ca or Don at cridstar@islandnet.com.

Losing Laurel House

There has been a great deal of discussion re: closure of Laurel House in the paper and I doubt that anything that I may say will shed any more light on the matter but I feel an obligation to have my say in terms of mental health.

One can read books, check the internet and so forth in attempts to understand mental illness, however, reading facts and situations can not fully explain what people go through on an on-going basis, living each day trying to cope with something, even with treatment, that can “control” ones life. It is often viewed in the negative with criticism and misunderstanding.

Particularly, for those who have minimal back-up and support, Laurel House is a blessing and in my view point, it is immoral to even consider its closure, however it appears that it will be closed regardless of the desperate need it provides.

Loneliness is a factor with mental illness. To be able to be with those who are walking the walk, can provide some hope, encouragement and understanding.

Education re:mental illness is essential, and if anything at all this process is accomplishing, it may be a change of attitude and compassion and caring towards those with such affliction. I sincerely hope that the closure of Laurel House can be averted.

Vicki Munch
non-practicing Registered Nurse

HOMES FOR THE HOMELESS

Having just read the latest edition of “Victoria Street Newz” I am struck by the lack of imagination or initiative shown by anyone focusing on a partial solution to the plight of the homeless. Most articles spread doom and gloom about the homeless community.

The Federal Government has just announced the spending of millions of dollars to build new facilities in Canada’s Arctic to guarantee Canada’s sovereignty and develop the north.

Has anyone thought of petitioning the government to, as part of an experimental pilot project, build “homes” and adjacent training facilities and to voluntarily ‘recruit’ those of Victoria’s and Vancouver’s homeless WHO WANT TO WORK, are reasonably physically fit and with a minimum of training, move them to a facility in the north. There, they might have the opportunity for a new life, with employable skills, earn a living and make a contribution to Canada’s development.

THINK CREATIVELY ABOUT SOLUTIONS RATHER THAN ONLY COMPLAINING

Regards, Ian Cummings

Some Thoughts on Street Issues

In 1992 when I returned from Nicaragua I applied to work at the Psychiatric Outreach Street Program. Then, there was a group of Psych Nurses who did “ride alongs” with the coppers and, as well, were on call to diffuse situations where the police were less then effective or it was a mental health issue.

I hear nothing of this program now and wonder if it went the way of the Union Contracts when the Libs got in a few years ago. The office was close to Hillside and Douglas, if I remember correctly. I think it was difficult to keep track of all the discontinuations/cutbacks on programs, in those early days. Instead of more heavy handed police action, how about some nurses and caring people to intervene instead. We cost less then cops (no uniforms, weapons, bullets, vehicles to procure) and can be more effective with less aggression.

Cheers,
Barbara Hay

NO ONE IS FREE WHEN
OTHERS ARE OPPRESSED

© 2005 Northern Sun Merchandising Minneapolis MN 55406 www.northernsun.com 800-258-8579 5717



The Rainbow Kitchen happens every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at noon. A hot, home-cooked lunch is available free, or by donation. St. Saviour's is at 310 Henry Road in Esquimalt. A big thanks to Father Antonio, his wife Andrea (left), and all the volunteers who make the Rainbow Kitchen a comfortable and friendly place to gather.



Interesting Statistic

Regardless of where you stand on the issue of the U.S. involvement in Iraq , here is a sobering statistic:

There has been a monthly average of 160,000 troops in the Iraq theatre of operations during the last 22 months, and a total of 2,867 deaths. That gives a firearm death rate of 60 per 100,000 soldiers.

The firearm death rate in Washington D.C. is 80.6 per 100,000 persons for the same period.

That means that you are about 25% more likely to be shot and killed in the U.S. Capital than you are in Iraq.

Conclusion: The U.S. should pull out of Washington.

Source and validity unknown.
Thanks to Harry Burton
(www.appleluscious.com) for forwarding it.

Are we doing anything useful yet?

from Susan Stroud

I mean each of us every day of course, but I especially mean those holding any kind of office or being paid from the public purse. I seem to live on a strange planet where everyone talks about doing things and even goes to meetings about doing things, but hardly anyone really acts.

I know a councillor who always wants to talk about having a talk about having a community conversation. Yep it really sounds like that. I think the musical repetitiveness is meant to act as a hypnotic lullaby. Lots of talk and pretty much no walk. It’s driving me mad. At what point do we say we’ve talked so let’s get it done?

Central Saanich is a great example of this. Only 27% of registered Central Saanich voters bothered to vote in the last municipal election. It wasn’t in the summertime. We hadn’t had a major flood or earthquake. It was a normal November Saturday. There were three polling stations and everything went smoothly. So where were the voters? Maybe they aren’t aware of the glacial pace of action on the part of their council. Maybe they just hadn’t seen Al Gore yet.

At one of our recent Council meetings a councillor ran down the 12 steps in the Squamish green pledge suggesting we were already doing these things or the CRD was so we didn’t need to worry. He even included the CRD’s composting experiment in which Central Saanich declined to participate! He bragged about the one hybrid car we bought for our police department and his major premise was that we didn’t really need to take the pledge because things were already being done. Then our beloved Mayor took the list as “greenwashed” by the councillor, went to a CRD meeting and said we had “adopted” these things.

He didn’t mention all the trees we chopped down on the main street of Brentwood Bay which has resulted in a boom of tree chopping as the new chic activity by homeowners, Hydro and the municipality. The homeowners have even taken to chopping down rows of trees on public property!

We also turned down free money from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to do a sorely needed transit study because “staff has no time.” Yet those proposing the study said prior to the vote that Transit had already agreed to do the work if the municipality would just let it be known that they would be applying for the money. Transit use means less car use and fewer parking spaces needed.

Can you hear me screaming yet? No? Well let me add this bit. One or two of our councillors have taken to calling citizens alarmists if we dare bring up the current science on global warming and suggest it’s time we act. And Raeside of course ridiculed our efforts to save the trees suggesting our vigil might burn them down. Let’s measure his carbon footprint.

All the municipalities are not equal. Some are

acting, some are not. Some have more money than others, but the funding is out there through the FCM’s Green Municipal Fund. At the least, each municipality should be finding ways to reduce green house gas emissions by 80% within the next year. Almost all of this can be done with simple reductions or with technology that already exists. Put less vital pet projects on hold and get this emergency (for so it is) dealt with.

Tax lawns, and give tax breaks to those who replace their lawns with organic gardens and to those who stop watering lawns and using herbicides and pesticides and fertilizers. It’s time to just cut it out. In fact it’s time just to permanently ban lawns except for a few special places like the front of the Legislature. I love the boulevard gardening Oak Bay has decided to allow. Veggies on the verge. Hooray! Can you imagine how cool the Empress would look with her own truck garden all around? Can you imagine how nice it would be never to have to listen to your neighbour’s mower again? And then there’s all that mower pollution.

Set up volunteer gardening crews who will do the gardening for those who can,t. Sell the extra food grown to local grocers or give it to charities. Reward green building, but also legislate it. Why should anything being built be less than LEED gold standard? House, barn or business: change needs to happen now. Rehabilitate farmland. Is there an old road bed somewhere that could be removed and planted with trees? I can think of several.

Let’s have a contest to see who can green their municipal hall the quickest: permeable parking lots and sidewalks, grey water recycling and rainwater harvesting, veggie gardens instead of lawns or just let the lawn go, plant trees and set up some picnic tables, green roofs, recycled building materials, solar and geothermal power. Ask for ideas and I guarantee you your community will respond.

Reduce parking spaces and ban cars in the downtown core as has been done in London and is now in the works for New York. If these big cities can do it so can we. Make all drivers take a green course that teaches them not to idle and how to drive to conserve fuel.

Tell Mayor Lowe to plant trees of fame rather than having a sidewalk of fame. Imagine the Nelly Furtado willow tree right there in the middle of a pedestrian only Government Street! Maybe we could have a David Foster bamboo grove by the new Crystal Gardens Zoological Research Centre. How about Steve Nash ash trees at every rec centre? We already have this tradition in Beacon Hill Park so let’s spread the beauty around. Why do we need to copy someone else’s ungreen tourist gimmick? Let’s have one that actually contributes something to the general good.

And with all this each municipality will have to set up some way to measure its progress honestly. No more greenwashing exercises please! Citizens aren’t stupid and we won’t stand for fakery. Get busy. The November 2008 municipal elections are almost upon you.

Chattels & Green

by Brian Mason

A big, green building rises at the corner of Blanshard and Fairfield streets. Not green the colour, of course, but green in the modern, derived sense: environmental green. It began its upward journey, many months ago, by going deep down into the earth. The blasting and removing of rock went on endlessly, creating an enormous cavernous space for the building’s foundation far beneath the surface of our city. Bedrock was shattered. Throughout this time, all was dust and lifeless, except for human drones toiling deep in the pit.

So, so green.

The finished structure is intended to achieve the highest platinum rating (and I have no doubt that it will) under the U.S. Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System. It will be made of concrete; it will be made of steel; and it will be made of glass. It will bend and sway should an earthquake strike, and its units are so expensive they are being sold on a “shared ownership” basis. Thoroughly green.

Across the blue bridge another “green,” multi-use development stretches long through Coast Salish territory of the upper inner harbour. The earth here had to be cleansed or removed, due to earlier toxic industrial activities, before construction – huge construction – could even begin. It’s going for a high LEED level, too. Yet, in the lengthening shadow of its growing artificiality, a lonely, narrow bike path is eclipsed.

In the westshore communities, developers are laying waste to whatever places have not yet been exploited to their highest levels of profit – and they are doing it with a reckless, intense fury. Nature is but a petty nuisance to them, one they can blast and haul away, to replace with a big box store and an overbuilt cul-de-sac.

Not far away, the backpacks (excuse me, the chattel goods) of the homeless are being confiscated by the police, and the homeless are being asked to move on from the courtyard of the central library. The tourists find these people unsightly and annoying, slightly intimidating, even: consequently, they have to be moved (where . . . exactly?). Of course, argue the police, homelessness is not really a policing issue, it’s a socio-economico-politico-cultural-omic one. At any rate, it’s other agencies’ problem.

I, like the tourists, used to get upset when I would see the large amount of litter left behind in Beacon Hill Park by the homeless, or the damage they had done to the Dallas Road cliffs by digging in to sleep for the night. The holes there weaken the banks by increasing erosion, hastening the day when the entire cliff will collapse. Go sleep somewhere else, I would think, or, at least, practice low-impact camping like the Mountain Equipment Co-op crowd. Then, I started to put the view into perspective, to give it context, to see truly that oppression always runs downhill, landing violently on the most vulnerable among us.

All around the city – and what is a city, if not an aberration, a walling off of humans from the natural world where they have lived for nearly two hundred thousand years – growth is booming. I see only tall cranes, of the construction variety: the great blue herons have left. There are blasting nets and pulverised rock. Dump trucks heave and groan under massive loads, their tires shedding hard pellets of earth on the pavement. Long, gangly pumps pour wet concrete over miles of rebar. Construction noises shatter the air in one loud cacophony: blasting whistling roaring hammering grating scraping drilling shrieking pounding grinding thudding whining polishing sanding. I don’t hear silence, anymore. I am forced to inhale noxious diesel fumes, to let settle on me the dust of excavation mixed with the coarse powder of drywall and mortar.

As the buildings rise, once beautiful views are blocked forever: cold, high wind tunnels take their place. The sunset is gone, our landscape impoverished – nothing for us is sacred. Our only guide is the doctrine of endless, exploitive growth. We construct our dwellings now in the same way as we would dig an open pit mine, with a great rending of the earth’s fabric. We show neither reverence nor humility in our home places.

Mountain tops are removed to make way for subdivision sprawl and the wasteland that is a golf course; marshes and wetlands receive the dump trucks’ loads. In the rush to lay asphalt or throw up a condo, the sacred sites of indigenous peoples are trampled and despoiled. Traffic worsens. Increasingly, the city eats up more and more green space, its growth unstoppable. In fact, “New Scientist” magazine reported recent research showing that cities, unlike biological organisms, have no built-in mechanism for keeping their size under control. It can just keep accelerating. Of the homeless in our city, on the other hand, there’s only about a thousand, close to the once-ideal size of a human settlement.

Our liberal notions of exclusive (human) proprietorship over land – where one can do more or less what one pleases, without regard for community, the commons or the biosphere – must end. Land belongs to the earth, not to humans: it is for all, not one.

Meanwhile, nearby, the city’s homeless sleep in whatever woods are left. It is quiet in there, apart from the occasional strumming of a guitar or gentle patting on a bongo drum. A little trash may be left behind, or a fire started. Diggings, if any, go down only a few feet. No blasting, no steel, no cement, no poisonous fumes: ground-level platinum. There’s a sense of home place.

Submitted by Brian Mason, who lives in the city.

PROFILE OF THE WOMEN OF ALOUETTE: KELLY MURPHY

Dictated by Betty Krawczyk from Alouette Correctional Centre for Women in Maple Ridge, BC.

Betty K: Kelly, this is your third time in prison right?

Kelly M: Right.

Betty K: You told me, the other times, when you were released from prison, you tried to go straight each time. Is that correct?

Kelly M: Yes it is.

Betty K: Ok, so what happens when you’re released?

Kelly M: Well even though I’m skilled and educated, once I leave these gates, there is the pressing matter of getting a job. It’s hard to live down a prison background, and it’s almost impossible to get a job with one. So I wind up doing what has become familiar to me. That is, crime.

Betty K:: Do you think there is any way of this cycle of crime, prison, crime, prison ?

Kelly M: Yes, there certainly would be, if there was some help on the outside in getting a job. Right now there’s no kind of program, either inside or out that would actually help get back in the workforce.



Betty K: But you have a job here in prison, right?

Kelly M: Yes, I work at the lumber mill.

Betty K: There’s a lumber mill in prison?

Kelly M: No it’s not exactly in prison. Its a private mill, sort of attached to the prison. We make furniture. It’s called Mark’s Outdoor Furniture Company.

Betty K: So this is a private company?

Kelly M: Yes.

Betty K: How much are you paid?

Kelly M: \$5.50 a day. That’s the most any prisoner can make at the mill.

Betty K: IF you weren’t a prisoner, they would at least have to pay you minimum wage. So this private company is obviously making a big profit, using what only can be described as prison slave labour.

Kelly M: Well when you put it that way, yes. I also worked in the salmon enhancement program. That’s a government program, under the ministry of fisheries and oceans. If I was doing hard labour on the outside, I’d sure be making more than 5.50

a day too. So I guess the government saves a lot of money by using prison labour in the salmon enhancement program too.

Betty K: So the government saves money by using prison labour, and allows private companies to cash in on what can only be described as slave labour. Wouldn’t you think they could afford to spend to a few bucks to help prisoners find a job on the outside?

Kelly M: Yeah, they certainly should. That’s the main reason a lot of the women keep coming back to prison. They get out with no place to stay, no job, and no money. So it’s back to crime.

Betty K: So what do you want to do when you get out?

Kelly M: I want to work. I want a job, and a decent life. I know how to do a lot of things. Both office work and in trades. I am a certified forklift operator. I can be a useful member to society if I’m just given half a chance.

Betty K: Anyone that would like to can write to Kelly at:
Kelly Murphy
Alouette Correctional Centre for Women
P.O. Box 1000,
Maple Ridge, BC V2X 3K4

HELP FREE BETTY!

Betty is facing costs of \$6K - \$8K for the transcripts for her appeal alone. The court system seems to favour the possibility of appealing to the rich. Proceeds from the sale of these T-shirts will go to Betty’s expenses in her fight for justice.

The shirts are 70% Bamboo and 30% Organic Cotton Tee’s from HT Naturals, available in Mens’ or Women’s styles, Small, Medium or Large.

Price: \$24.95 + GST (total \$26.45). Please add \$2 for postage per shirt.

To order, please send a cheque for the T’s, plus any donation you wish to add, made out to “Betty K Fund”, and a note with:

- the number of shirts you want to order
- Men/Women’s
- Sizes: S, M, L, XL
- Your email and postal address.

and mail to:

Betty K Fund, Attention: Monika Sheardown
1945 Creelman Avenue
Vancouver BC, V6J 1B8



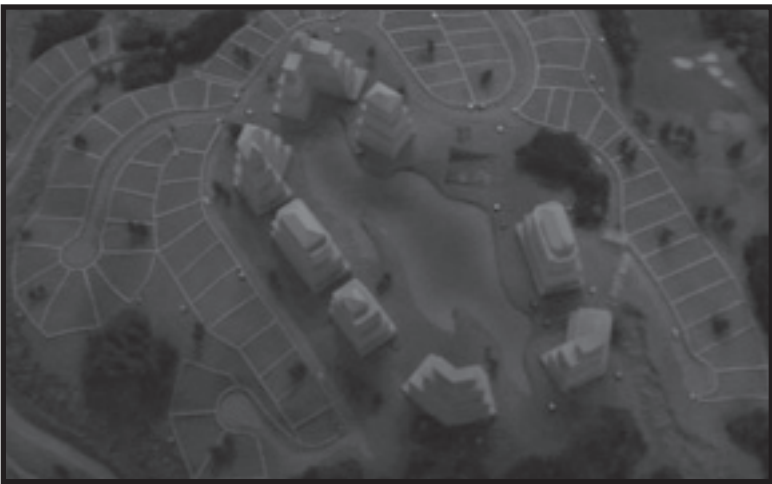
and we’ll send your T-shirt(s) to you promptly!

Massive Towers Proposed for Bear Mountain (aka Spaet or Skirt Mountain)

from Ben Isitt

Two photos are attached showing a model of high-rise towers proposed for the summit of Spaet/Skirt Mountain. The model was on display earlier this year at the Bear Mountain Hilton.

These high-rise towers, if allowed to proceed, would be visible from viewscapes throughout the CRD. The Spaet/Skirt summit is 374 m (1138 ft) -- the highest point between Mt. Finlayson and downtown Victoria.



Feel free to contact the following people to express your views. Thanks!

BC Liberal Cabinet:
premier@gov.bc.ca, shirley.bond.mla@leg.bc.ca, mike.dejong.mla@leg.bc.ca, bill.bennett.mla@leg.bc.ca, bill.barisoff.mla@leg.bc.ca, george.abbott.mla@leg.bc.ca, pat.bell.mla@leg.bc.ca , gordon.campbell.mla@leg.bc.ca, ida.chong.mla@leg.bc.ca, tom.christensen.mla@leg.bc.ca, murray.coell.mla@leg.bc.ca, rich.coleman.mla@leg.bc.ca, kevin.falcon.mla@leg.bc.ca, stan.hagen.mla@leg.bc.ca, colin.hansen.mla@leg.bc.ca, olga.ilich.mla@leg.bc.ca, john.les.mla@leg.bc.ca, richard.neufeld.mla@leg.bc.ca, wally.oppal.mla@leg.bc.ca, barry.penner.mla@leg.bc.ca, linda.reid.mla@leg.bc.ca, clauderichmond.mla@leg.bc.ca, m carole.taylor.mla@leg.bc.ca, rick.thorpe.mla@leg.bc.ca, john.vandongen.mla@leg.bc.ca

Langford City Council: council@cityofflangford.ca or 250-478-7882

Victoria print media: Times Colonist: letters@tc.canwest.com, Victoria News: editor@vicnews.com (or your local NewsGroup paper), Monday Magazine: letters@mondaymag.com

For more information about the Bear/Spaet Mountain Tree Sit that's been in existence for several months, in an attempt to stop the further destruction of unceded native territory (including a kirst cave): treesit@gmail.com or check the website at treesit.blogspot.com

Ask a Herbalist

James Christian is a fully qualified Medical Herbalist who runs an Organic Herbal Medicine Clinic and Dispensary in James Bay at the James Bay Community Project. He is the President of the Modern and Traditional Herbalists Guild of BC and Dean of the School of Phytotherapy at Pacific Rim College in Market Square.



Dear James, What is the difference between using Herbal Medicine from the shelf of a Natural Health Food Store or Pharmacy and herbs bought from a Professional Herbalist?

Matt, Victoria

Dear Matt,

There are several reasons why purchasing herbs from a Herbalists Dispensary are better than those from the shelf.

Firstly, a Herbalist will customize the formulation for you as an individual. This customizing of the formulation ensures you are receiving the herbs best suited to your health conditions, and none of those that aren't. A Herbalist is also able to assess if there are any potential interactions with any pharmaceutical medications you might be taking as well. You are not given that protection if you purchase a pre-formulated remedy off the shelf.

Another problem is determining whether the pre-manufactured products actually contain the right species of plants and the right part of the plant needed to achieve a therapeutic effect. A Professional Herbalist ensures that the plants he/she uses are the right species and that the correct part of the plant (roots, leafs, fruit, etc.) has been used.

Lastly, plant medicines are generally safe, but they are still medicines. They need to be respected and used properly and the guidance of a Professional Herbalist is vital to ensure that you are taking the right combination of plants properly to be confident that you truly are working towards better health.

There are some very good products out there as well, ask a Professional about which ones are good.

If you have any questions about Holistic Health and Healing Herbs, please feel free to email me at medicalherbalist@yahoo.ca or call me at 250 920 8351. You can see more about me at www.askaherbalist.ca. I have a sliding fee scale and offer discounts to students, seniors and low-income individuals. Please get in touch with me to book an appointment today.



Dear Couz

by Jennifer Hastie

Ya know, Couz, last month I was talking to you about the Museum of Pre-Columbian Art in Chile and the (apparent) lack of laws or controls to prevent private individuals from buying up Native artifacts. It got me thinking about our situation up here in Canada. In our Victoria Museum there is a visiting collection of artifacts that were once owned by the famous Dundas family back in the 18th–19th century. It appears that this powerful pioneer family acquired 35 “Indian Curiosities” (as they called them) in 1863, at the same time that a smallpox epidemic was killing many natives up and down the coast. Life must have been in total chaos for those people at that time.

The Dundas family held on to these objects for 143 years. Then, in 2006 they put them up for auction. They sold for over 7 million dollars to a group of private purchasers.

It's got me thinking. What do the Tsimshians want done with the artifacts? The artifacts represent their history, their culture of yesterday and today. Why would these artifacts have not been given back to them? It's all about money, Couz. And today it also means that the Tsimshian must have a museum, a building to store them with all the fancy equipment to keep these pieces from deteriorating. What a spot to be in, for I am presuming that the Tsimshians don't have the money or the time to be a possible bidder in this recent auction.



Again, Couz, I go back to the on-going land claims. I am led to understand that within every land claims agreement with the various Native claims there is a “cultural component,” allowing the group to lay claim to artifacts that presently exist in our museums across the country. But hey, these Tsimshian artifacts are now in the hands of private individuals. What is going to be done about that situation?

Well, Couz, on to some good news. Did you happen to hear about the celebration that took place regarding the V.I.A.T.T? Well, I am not surprised that you didn't hear anything. I waited throughout most of June for something to be reported. As usual, the media did not pick up on the story. Yep, I know that only bad news sells, but I thought for sure, though, that the CBC would pick up on this news because they advertised that they were devoting considerable time to Native Indian affairs during the last week in June.



Oh well, Couz, let me tell you about VIATT. That abbreviation stands for the “Vancouver Island Aboriginal Transition Team.” This team is a mix of three Vancouver Island Native Indian cultural groups plus representatives from the Metis, the off-reserve Natives, and the provincial government. VIATT uses the term ‘aboriginal’ to include all Native Indian branches taking part in the transition team. Surprise, eh, both natives and whites working together!

This group has been meeting since May, 2002, to work on a better way to handle aboriginal children who need help because their families are having problems.

It looks as if our government is finally recognizing that the best people to handle the aboriginal children are the Native people themselves. The VIATT group has been quietly working on how to hand over this control for the last three years.

Well, Couz, finally, the papers have been signed to give VIATT “interim authority.” This means that they are actually going to start changing the way that child welfare is handled in this province.

On June 8 there was a huge potlatch at the Snuneymuxw Long House in Nanaimo to celebrate the signing. Imagine, about 1100 people were there! That must have been something to be part of! Even the head honcho from the Ministry of Children & Family Development was there, along with other important people from the government and dignitaries from the Native communities all over the island.

I heard, via the grapevine, that it was a wonderful celebration.

Both native and non-native people agree that the white man has done some serious damage to the Indian people. However, there seems to be a new understanding among non-native peoples too: All of us need to reclaim our communities' responsibility to look out for and help each other. Our children and our elders, whether they are native or non-native, are too important to leave to a central government service, one with traditional policies that do not work in remote communities or with people who do not come from a white, middle class way of life.

I choose to be optimistic about VIATT, even though it's going to take a while before we really see any big changes. Surely, we have all learned from the disasters of the 20th century. It is time to heal so that we can believe in and hopefully, contribute to a better system in the future. Let us hope that this time around, the system will work a little better for all of us.

Jennifer and her husband live in Victoria today. She is a healthy, active senior who enjoys writing volunteer articles for various publications.

Street Muzings

The Industry of Poverty Without a ball

The industry of poverty
It doesn't do a thing for me
I am not free
Dependant on
The industry of poverty.
I watch this man he kicks a ball
He curves this ball round a wall
It's in the net
He is so tall

From foot to foot
From man to man
If I was naïve
I would see no plan

The crowd they rant
The crowd they roar
The crowd they chant
Well they've just scored

Well the ball it curves
The back has swerved
He pivots turns
He's just scored again

The crowd it sways
The crowd it moves
Referee gives another penalty
And the crowd it boos

Now when
I was really
really small
Would
spend long
hours with
a ball
And I gave
up and did
other things
Imagine ...
I could sprint down wings

Now that ball can really fly
Pass through the smallest eye
Through time and space
New dimension brand new place

I see no industry in poverty
No hope what things can't be
I only see what I can see
The imagination in fraternity

© Paul Burnside, June 28th, '07



And so I did begun with brand new revolution

I did kill one day
feeling no remorse.
I did kill next day
and I was not about to show
any remorse
for my evil deeds even then.

I was living in one
with cockroaches infested
basement suite.
And killing did became to be
for me
my daily job.

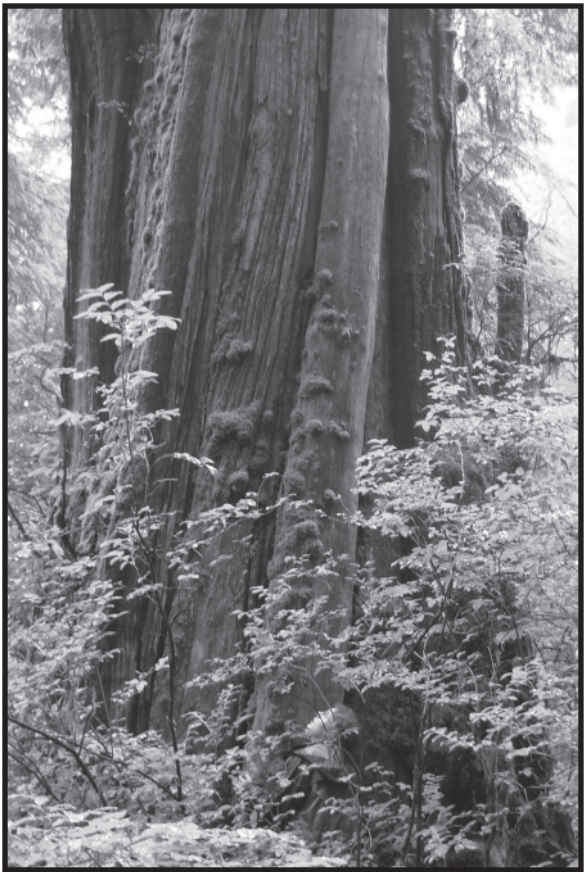
So often I did feel like to kill
every rich son of the bitch
who was exploiting me
and forcing me to be living
in my
by me so undesired predicament.

But I didn't
because I knew well.

That for killing only cockroaches
I would not have to go to jail.
And also
that every rich son of the bitch
I had such a desire to kill
Is and always was
considered to be in under the law
well protected species.

And so I did begun
with brand new revolution.

© Miroslav Vlcek, 2007



Moby Dick

*swept away
using emotion as a weapon
i fire off
into the hollow dark
of my situation.
the wants of my heart
are projected with so much vigor
my chest is blown wide open
from the blast
and the whole world is ringing
from the report.
Ahab had his whale
to chase on into madness
now i'm busied
emulating his obsession
falling over-board
singing out, in a hopeless falsetto
hard on the hunt of a lost love
amongst the street urchins
and garbage cans.*

j. fisher



Verna (above) is originally from the Gitksan Nation. Here she's selling her beautiful bead and stone jewelry at the 'Hippie Village' outside the Vancouver Folk Festival. You can purchase her jewelry at the Vancouver Int'l airport (beside the Bill Reid art design) or Native Spirit Alliance @ 232-757 West Hastings St., Vancouver, or Granville Island Raven and Bear gallery in Vancouver.



North Park BICYCLE SHOP

250-386-2453

1725 Quadra

Victoria
Street
Newz

August
circular:
1800

Tony's Trailers



Bike trailers for every person & purpose

766 Handy Road, Mill Bay
(250) 743-9915
tonyhoar@shaw.ca, tonystailers.com

thanks for the
work you are
doing - it's people
like you
that make it
worthwhile
(or able)
for me to go on
anonymous

Save
your money

Save
the hassle

Save
the planet



victoria
car·share
co-op

**#12 Centennial Square
Tuesday to Friday 1pm to
5pm.**

**Phone: (250) 995-0265
www.victoriacarshare.ca**

CASCADIA MASSAGE THERAPY

DAVID BAROFF, BA, JD, RMT



www.cascadiamassagetherapy.com 1781 McKenzie Avenue
Victoria, BC V8N 1A6
book online (250) 472-2016



James Christian
B.SC. (Herbal Medicine), MNIMH, RH
Medical Herbalist

Victoria, BC 250-920-8351
medicalherbalist@yahoo.ca
askaherbalist.ca



**Making the world a
better place
one latte
at a time.**

529 pandora ave
victoria

PUT YOURSELF IN MY HANDS!

Sophisticated
Dentistry
For the
Sensitive
Patient



DOCTOR DEANNA GEDDO DDS
#404-645 Fort St.
Victoria, BC

Central America Support Committee

CASC
Join us first Wednesday of every month;
7:30 PM upstairs at 1923 Fernwood Road
Email: casc@telus.net
Phone: 598-7690
Web: http://casc.communitypipe.org/

Café Simpatico
Victoria's Activist Coffeehouse
598-7690 • 1923 Fernwood Road

Fair trade organic coffee
available by the cup or pound

**Express
Yourself!**

Write your
MP -
no postage
required.

democracy
watch has
links to mlas
mps and
senators:

www.dwatch.
ca/camp/mps.
htm




Denise Savoie
Member of Parliament for Victoria

970 Blanshard Street
363-3600
www.denisesavoie.ca


A Voice for Victoria in Ottawa

Standing up for you!



1020 Hillside Avenue
Phone: 250 360 2023
rob.fleming.mla@leg.bc.ca

Rob Fleming, MLA
Victoria - Hillside



JOBS !!

Sign up with
Vancouver
Island Public
Interest
Research Group
(VIPIRG)
employment
list-serve (it's
free).

send email
to director@
vipirg.ca


dark horse books

623 johnson street
(250)386-8736

quasi-alternative,
unusual and eclectic

Sun, Mon, Tues: 12-5
Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sat: 10-6

Victoria's *BIG* little bookshop.



I am so impressed with the STREET
NEWZ! It has some very thoughtful,
insightful and inspirational pieces. Keep
up the great work everyone!

Sue Stroud

Victoria Street Newz Distribution Team



Ken



Debbie



John



Marlene



Berni

Sean
(photo
not yet
available)



Shirley



Rose



Rick



Ted & Bok



John

Street Newz
content is
available for
reprinting
with
permission of
the author.
Please give us
some credit
and reference
the source.

Bean Counting

	May	June	July
Operating Revenue			
Coordinator's Revenue			
Paper Sales (from vendors)	644.50	550.00	510.00
Donations	40.00	195.00	60.00
Subscriptions	35.00	0.00	0.00
Salary from B & R	659.50	740.50	700.00
Workshop - Lifecycles	0.00	0.00	80.00
Total Coordinator's Revenue	1379.00	1485.50	1270.00
B&R Revenue (deposited)			
Advertising	285.00	0.00	125.00
Donations	135.00	150.00	65.00
Subscriptions	175.00	145.00	155.00
Grants/Volume Subscriptions	600.00	0.00	0.00
Total B&R Rev. (deposited)	1195.00	295.00	345.00
Total Operating Revenue	1379.00	1485.50	1270.00
Operating Expenses			
Coordinator's Expenses			
Paper & Printing Costs	543.25	571.34	571.34
Office expenses	24.00	16.00	16.00
Misc. (postage, fees, etc.)	80.85	74.82	98.60
Community reciprocity	85.00	135.00	40.00
Total Coordinator's Expenses	733.10	797.16	725.94
B & R Expenses			
Bus Tickets (2 for 1)	40.50	40.50	40.50
fm City of Vic Grant	250.00	0.00	0.00
fm KAIROS Grant	125.00	0.00	0.00
fm PSAC Grant	200.00	225.00	0.00
fm B & R reserves	125.00	475.00	700.00
sub ttl B&R Expenses	740.50	740.50	740.50
Total Operating Expenses	1473.60	1537.66	1466.44
Ttl Coord Rev minus Expenses (- is out of pocket, + is salary)	-94.60	-52.16	-196.44
Bread & Roses Balance	3938.64	3488.39	3132.55

A Gigantuous Thank You !!

New or renewed subscribers: Marge Reitsma Street

Creative Contributors: Hal Sisson, Janine Banderof, Kenji Fusé, Andrew Barry, Christina Peacock, Gerry Masuda, Karen Wonders, John Young, Helen Michell, Sue Hiscocks, Jim Wight, Red, Michael Polanyi (KAIROS), David Arthur Johnston, Andrew Ainsley, Phil Lyons, Harry Burton, Susan Stroud, Vicki Munch, Ian Cummings, Barbara Hay, Brian Mason, Betty Krawczyk, Monika Sheardown, Ben Isitt, Jennifer Hastie, James Christian, Paul Burnside, j. fisher, Miroslav Vleck, www.coolworldmedia.com

Extra generous supporters: John Di Stefano, Ingmar Lee

Special thanks: Bread and Roses Collective, Colin Dower, Lisa Helps, Alvaro Moreno, Christina Mitchell, Jennifer Hill, Carol Quartermain, Chris Cook, David Cardinal, Liz Zloklikovits, Valerie & Trevor Williams, Sheila & Bill Ede, James Christian, Peggy & Michael, Sukhi Lalli, all the vendors and writers

**And anyone else I may have missed -
Thanks!! We couldn't do it without you!!**

Creative Fundraising

Street Newz is currently published monthly, with a circulation of 1800. It's a project of the *Bread and Roses Collective*, a registered Non-Profit Society. We don't have charitable status, so we can't issue tax receipts, and this limits our funding options considerably.

Recently, our friends at the Canadian Community Housing Foundation purchased a volume subscription. In exchange for their 600 dollars, they'll receive 18 copies of Street Newz each month for a year, delivered to their door. They can then distribute those newspapers to their clients, board of directors, or whoever they choose.

ICO (InnovativeCommunities.Org) are worldwide friends that enable the Canadian Community Housing Foundation to eradicate poverty by creating innovative sustainable communities. ICO has issued a challenge to other organizations, especially those that are charitable, to support the Street Newz by purchasing a volume subscription. You can read about their challenge by accessing the 'Homelessness Centre' at InnovativeCommunities.org.

Thanks!

Street Newz Subscriptions

While Street Newz vendors appreciate your direct purchases, subscriptions and donations help offset production costs. A subscription (€35 or more/yr or €20 low-income) is a wonderful gift for you, or a friend!

Name:

Address:

City:

Province/State:

Postal/Zip:

Phone/email:

☐

Deliver to me, at the address above

☐

Deliver to my friend, at this address:

Name:

Address:

City:

Province/State:

Postal/Zip:

Ph/email:

please make cheques payable to

**Victoria Street Newz,
1027 Pandora Ave., Victoria BC, V8V 3P6**

relativenewz.ca

Thanks for your support!!